

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of making paper comprising:

mixing a pulp slurry and a polymer emulsion comprising a natural cationic polymer (A) and polymer particles (B) comprising at least vinyl monomer-derived structural units, ~~said monomer units~~ comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of ~~at least one vinyl monomer-derived structural unit derived from vinyl fatty esters~~ ester units, wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of a natural cationic polymer (A) to form a mixture;

filtering said mixture on a wire mesh to drain water out to form a paper layer, and
wherein said polymer emulsion is added to said pulp slurry at the time of papermaking.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the natural cationic polymer (A) is at least one selected from cationic starch and cationic cellulose.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature (TG) of the polymer particle (B) comprising vinyl monomer-derived structural units is 90°C or less.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the nitrogen content of the natural cationic polymer (A) is 0.05 to 1 wt %.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the natural cationic polymer (A) is 5 to 500 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer particles (B).

7. (Previously Presented) A pulp sheet made by the method according to claim 1.

8. (Previously Presented) The pulp sheet according to claim 7, wherein the polymer emulsion of claim 1 is present in an amount of 0.05 to 20 parts by weight in terms of solid content to 100 parts by weight of the pulp sheet.

9. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The method according to claim 1,~~ A method of making paper comprising:

mixing a pulp slurry and a polymer emulsion comprising ~~wherein the polymer emulsion~~ is a synthetic cationic polymer (A') having a viscosity of 20 mPa·s or more in a 7 wt. % aqueous solution as determined at 50°C with a Brookfield viscometer and Rotor No. 2 at 60 rpm, and a nitrogen content of 1.0 wt. % or less and polymer particles (B) having a glass transition temperature (TG) of 90°C or less having vinyl monomer-derived structural units, ~~said monomer~~

~~units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of at least one vinyl monomer-derived structural unit derived from a monomer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl acrylate, an alkyl methacrylate, vinyl fatty esters~~ ester units, ~~styrene and α -methyl styrene~~, wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of a synthetic cationic polymer (A') ; and

filtering said mixture on a wire mesh to drain water out to form a paper layer,
wherein said polymer emulsion is added to said pulp slurry at the time of papermaking.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method of improving stiffness of paper comprising:

bringing pulp into contact with a polymer emulsion comprising a natural cationic polymer (A) and polymer particles (B) comprising at least vinyl monomer-derived structural units, ~~said monomer units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of at least one vinyl monomer-derived structural unit derived from~~ vinyl fatty esters ester units, wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of a natural cationic polymer (A) , and

wherein said pulp is contacted with said polymer emulsion at the time of papermaking.

11. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, in which the vinyl monomer-derived structural unit comprises 2.43 wt. % or less of a polymerizable unsaturated group – containing anionic monomer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, in which the vinyl monomer-derived structural unit comprises 2.78 wt. % or less of a nonionic hydrophilic group – containing monomer.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, in which the polymer emulsion includes polymer particles (B) having an average size of 0.1 to 30 μ m.

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion contains particles (B) in an amount of 5 to 60 wt.%.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the polymer particle (B) is 0.01 to 50 μ m.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the synthetic cationic polymer (A') is present in an amount of 5 to 500 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of polymer particles (B).